

IN THE CLAIMS

Claims 1 to 44 (Cancelled)

Claim 45. (Currently Amended) A process for the preparation of (+)2-(4-chlorophenyl)-3-methylbutanoic acid (+CPA), which comprises:

(a) mixing (\pm)2-(4-chlorophenyl)-3-methylbutanoic acid (\pm CPA) with a resolving agent comprising optically active (S)(-) α -phenylethylamine (PEA) in a solvent system comprising an alcoholic solvent and water under conditions wherein the (\pm)2-(4-chlorophenyl)-3-methylbutanoic acid (\pm CPA) and the resolving agent react to form a mixture comprising enantiomeric salts;

(b) cooling the mixture to form a resultant mixture comprising crystallized (+)CPA-(-)PEA salt and dissolved (-)CPA;

(c) separating the crystallized salt in the resultant mixture from the dissolved (-)CPA;

(d) refining the crystallized salt by treating the crystallized salt with the solvent system of step (a) alcoholic solvent and water; and

(e) recovering (+)CPA from the refined salt.

Claim 46. (Previously Presented) The process as claimed in claim 45, wherein the refining step (d) comprises at least one step of dissolving the crystallized salt in the alcoholic solvent and water and recrystallizing the salt.

Claim 47. (Previously Presented) The process as claimed in claim 46, wherein the refining comprises at most two recrystallizing steps and results in the recovery in step (e) of (+)CPA with an optical rotation of greater than +40.5°.

Claim 48. (Previously Presented) The process as claimed in claim 45, further comprising the step of recovering the optically active (S)(-) α -phenylethylamine (PEA) and recovering the (-)CPA.

Claim 49. (Previously Presented) A process as claimed in claim 45, wherein the alcoholic solvent is selected from the group consisting of propanol, –butanol, sec-butanol, iso-butanol, and tert butanol.

Claim 50. (Currently Amended) A process as claimed in claim 45, wherein the solvent system is an aqueous mixture of butanol ~~butnaol~~.

Claim 51. (Previously Presented) A process as claimed in claim 45, wherein the resolving agent in step (a) is present in an amount of 0.4 to 0.65 mole per mole of (\pm) CPA.

Claim 52. (Cancelled)

Claim 53. (Cancelled)

Claim 54. (Previously Presented) A process as claimed in claim 45, wherein the PEA is added to the mixture in step (a) at a temperature in the range of 30 to 100°C.

Claim 55. (Cancelled)

Claim 56. (Cancelled)

Claim 57. (Cancelled)

Claim 58. (Cancelled)

Claim 59. (Cancelled)

Claim 60. (Cancelled)

Claim 61. (Cancelled)

Claim 62. (Cancelled)

Claim 63. (Cancelled)

Claim 64. (Cancelled)

Claim 65. (Currently Amended) A process as claimed in claim 45, wherein the recovering step (e) comprising liberating the (+) CPA from the salt using a mineral ~~or an organic~~ acid.

Claim 66. (Cancelled)

Claim 67. (Currently Amended) A process as claimed in claim ~~65~~ 66, wherein the mineral acid is an aqueous sulphuric acid.

Claim 68. (Cancelled)

Claims 69-81. (Cancelled)

Claim 82. (New) The process as claimed in claim 45, wherein the solvent system consists of the alcoholic solvent and water.

Claim 83. (New) The process according to claim 45, wherein the alcoholic solvent is an alcohol containing C₃ to C₅ carbon units.

Claim 84. (New) The process according to claim 45, wherein the alcoholic solvent is an alcohol containing C₃ to C₅ carbon units.